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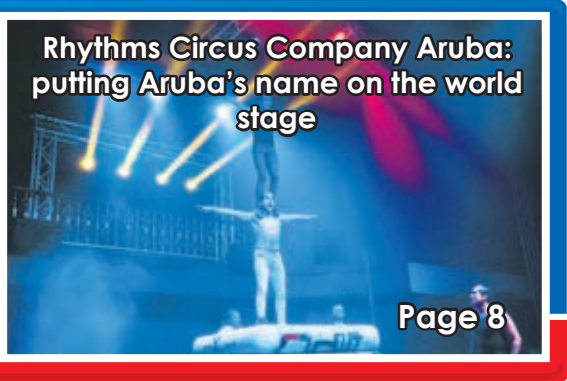
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Carcinogens found at Montana nuclear missile sites as reports of hundreds of cancers surface

By Tara Copp  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force has detected unsafe levels of a likely carcinogen at underground launch control centers at a Montana nuclear missile base where a striking number of men and women have reported cancer diagnoses. A new cleanup effort has been ordered. The discovery “is the first from an extensive sampling of active U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile bases to address specific cancer concerns raised by missile community members,” Air Force Global Strike Command said in a release Monday. In those samples, two launch facilities at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana showed PCB levels higher than the thresholds recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency. PCBs are oily or waxy substances that have been identified as a likely carcinogen by the EPA. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma is a blood cancer that uses the body's infection-fighting lymph system to spread.

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In this image provided by the U.S. Air Force, Airman 1st Class Jackson Ligon, left, and Senior Airman Jonathan Marinaccio, 341st Missile Maintenance Squadron technicians connect a re-entry system to a spacer on an intercontinental ballistic missile during a Simulated Electronic Launch-Minuteman test Sept. 22, 2020, at a launch facility near Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont.

(Senior Airman Daniel Brosam/U.S. Air Force via AP, File)

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## Carcinogens found at Montana nuclear missile sites as reports of hundreds of cancers surface

Continued from Front

In response, Gen. Thomas Bussiere, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, has directed "immediate measures to begin the cleanup process for the affected facilities and mitigate exposure by our airmen and Guardians to potentially hazardous conditions."

After a military briefing was obtained by The Associated Press in January showing that at least nine current or former missileers at Malmstrom were diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a rare blood cancer, the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine launched a study to look at cancers among the entire missile community checking for the possibility of clusters of the disease.

And there could be hundreds more cancers of all types, based on new data from a grassroots group of former missile launch officers and their surviving family members.

According to the Torchlight Initiative, at least 268 troops who served at nuclear missile sites, or their surviving family members, have self-reported being diagnosed with cancer, blood diseases or other illnesses over the past several decades.

What's notable about those reported numbers is that the missileer community is very small. Only a few hundred airmen serve as missileers at each of the country's three silo-launched Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile bases any given year. There have been only

about 21,000 missileers in total since the Minuteman operations began in the early 1960s, according to the Torchlight Initiative.

For some context, in the U.S. general population there are about 403 new cancer cases reported per 100,000 people each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma affects an estimated 19 of every 100,000 people annually, according to the American Cancer Society.

Minutemen III silo fields are based at Malmstrom, F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming and Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. Missileers are male and female military officers who serve in underground launch control centers

where they are responsible for monitoring, and if needed, launching fields of silo-based nuclear weapons. Two missileers spend sometimes days at a time on watch in underground bunkers, ready to turn the key and fire Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles if ordered to do so by the president.

The Minuteman III silos and underground control centers were built more than 60 years ago. Much of the electronics and infrastructure is decades old. Missileers have raised health concerns multiple times over the years about ventilation, water quality and potential toxins they cannot avoid as they spend 24 to 48 hours on duty underground.

The Air Force discovery of

PCBs occurred as part of site visits by its bioenvironmental team from June 22 to June 29 in the Air Force's ongoing larger investigation into the number of cancers reported among the missile community. During the site visits a health assessment team collected water, soil, air and surface samples from each of the missile launch facilities.

At Malmstrom, of the 300 surface swipe samples, 21 detected PCBs. Of those, 19 were below levels set by the EPA requiring mitigation and two were above. No PCBs were detected in any of the 30 air samples. The Air Force is still waiting for test results from F.E. Warren and Minot for surface and air samples, and for all bases for the water and soil samples. □

## Atlanta begins to brace for the potential of a new Trump indictment as soon as next week



Barricades are seen near the Fulton County courthouse, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, in Atlanta.

(AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

By Kate Brumback  
Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Donald Trump and officials in Atlanta are bracing for a new indictment that could come as soon as next week in a Georgia prosecutor's investigation into the former president's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss in the state.

Fulton County Sheriff Pat Labat has said he's in meet-

ings "every day" to prepare for a possible indictment. In anticipation of potential charges, his deputies erected barriers last week along the block in front of the main courthouse. The street was closed this week, and parking is prohibited on nearby streets. Those measures are to remain in place through the end of next week, Labat's office said.

Trump has said he expects to be indicted a fourth time by next week and has begun stepping up his criticism of Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who has spent two years leading the election probe into Trump and his allies. Speaking to supporters in New Hampshire on Tuesday, the Republican former president launched highly personal attacks on Willis and called the 52-year-old Democratic prosecutor, who is Black, "a young woman, a young racist in Atlanta."

"She's got a lot of problems. But she wants to indict me to try to run for some other office," Trump said.

A spokesperson for Willis declined to comment on Trump's criticism. Her office hasn't said whether charges against



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally, Tuesday Aug. 8, 2023, at Windham High School in Windham, N.H.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

Trump will come next week. Willis told law enforcement and local government leaders in a letter in April that she expected to announce charging decisions by the end of the current court term, which ends

Sept. 1.

She advised law enforcement to prepare for "heightened security," noting that the announcement of charges "may provoke a significant public reaction." □



# Unprecedented levels of damage from storms this year is upending US towns and the insurance industry



Mariana Valenzuela sifts through the tornado damaged home of her aunt and cousins in Perryton, Texas, on June, 16, 2023.  
(AP Photo/David Erickson, File)



A person stands outside of a damaged home after a tornado hit May 13, 2023, in the unincorporated community of Laguna Heights, Texas near South Padre Island.  
(AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File)

**By Michelle Chapman  
Associated Press**

(AP) - Waves of severe thunderstorms in the U.S. during the first half of this year led to \$34 billion in insured losses, an unprecedented level of financial damage in such a short time, according to Swiss Re Group, as climate change contributes to the frequency and severity of violent meteorological events. Damages from convective storms in the U.S., those that can come with hail, lightning, heavy rain and high winds, accounted for nearly 70% of the \$50 billion in global catastrophic damages so far this year, the reinsurer said Wednesday. Those global figures includes earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

The storms in the U.S. were so severe, there were 10 that resulted in damages of \$1 billion or more, almost double the average recorded over the past decade, according to Swiss Re, and Texas was the state most severely effected.

There have been a multitude of high profile meteorological events to start the second half of the year including heatwaves in the U.S., northwestern China and southern Europe, and wildfires on Greek islands, Italy and in Algeria.

Damages and insurance losses from those events are still being tallied, Swiss Re said.

The figures for the first half of the year are in line with a report last month from another reinsurer, Munich Re, which said the series of thunderstorms that raked Texas in June was the most expensive single event in the U.S. for the year so far. The overall loss from those storms alone is estimated at approximately \$8.4 billion. "Devastating storms, which now seem to be the norm rather than the exception, are expected to continue to grow in intensity and severity," wrote Marcus Winter, CEO, North America at Munich Reinsurance America.

Winter said that it is "imperative" to act immediately in preparing communities

for the "physical and financial risks of future climate-related weather events." Reinsurers are the insurance industry's insurers, covering losses that could upend an individual company. Munich Re and Swiss Re have operations across the globe, including the U.S. Kerry Symons is a businessman in Perryton, a town of about 8,500 in the Texas Panhandle, one of the communities struck by a tornado in June, and he is also its mayor. Three of his buildings were damaged and destroyed, including a

furniture store. He also lost some vehicles.

Symons said he is like most residents in Perrytown in that he is still arguing with insurance companies. Some residents have sought his assistance as mayor.

"There's not a whole lot we can do for them as a city," he explained.

One lesson Symons has learned from the ordeal is the importance of an annual accounting for the cost of what is inside a building and what it would cost to rebuild. One of his buildings, a furniture store, was acquired recently so the valuation was easy. Another building that he has owned for 20 years has proved more difficult.

The increasing frequency of extreme weather has created disruptions within the insurance industry and some insurers have retreated from states that are getting hit hard, such as Florida and California.

The pullback by insurers is happening despite years of skyrocketing premiums for property owners in hard hit states.

State Farm and Allstate have pulled back from California's home insurance market, saying that increasing wildfire risk and soaring construction costs mean

they'll no longer write new policies in the nation's most populous state.

Last month Travelers said catastrophe losses doubled in its most recent quarter and the company, considered a bellwether for the insurance industry due to its size, said it lost money.

AAA has said that it will not renew "a very small percentage" of homeowners and auto insurance policies in hurricane-wracked Florida, joining other insurers in limiting their exposure in the Sunshine State despite efforts by lawmakers to calm the volatile insurance market.

AAA insists it's not leaving Florida, but that last year's devastating hurricane season had led to an unprecedented rise in reinsurance rates, making it more costly to operate there.

Florida has struggled to maintain stability in the state insurance market since 1992 when Hurricane Andrew flattened Homestead, wiped out some insurance carriers and left many remaining insurers anxious about writing or renewing policies in Florida. Risks for carriers have also been growing as climate change increases the strength of hurricanes and the intensity of rainstorms. □



The damage caused by a tornado to Beamer Place Apartments in Houston is seen on Jan. 25, 2023.  
(Yi-Chin Lee/Houston Chronicle via AP, File)



# GOP donor Anton Lazzaro sentenced to 21 years for sex trafficking minors in Minnesota

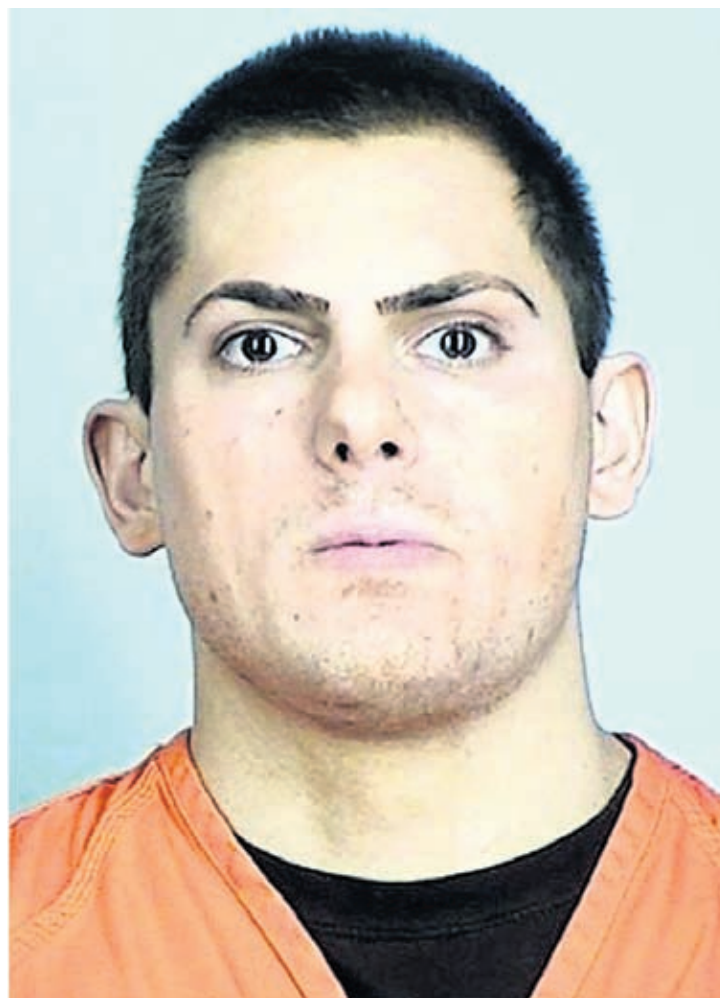
By Trisha Ahmed  
Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — A formerly well-connected GOP donor convicted of giving teenage girls gifts, alcohol and money in exchange for sex was sentenced Wednesday to 21 years in prison on sex trafficking charges.

Anton "Tony" Lazzaro was found guilty in March by a federal jury of seven counts involving "commercial sex acts" with five girls ages 15 and 16 in 2020, when Lazzaro was 30. The charges carried mandatory minimum sentences of 10 years with a maximum of life in prison.

Prosecutors had requested a 30-year sentence for Lazzaro. They likened Lazzaro to financier Jeffrey Epstein, who was arrested in 2019 on federal charges accusing him of paying underage girls for massages and then abusing them at his homes in Florida and New York. The defense asked for no more than 10 years.

"He's a sex trafficker," prosecutor Laura Provinzino said. "One who has shown



This booking photo released by Sherburne County Jail shows Anton Lazzaro.

(Sherburne County Jail/Star Tribune via AP, File)

absolutely no remorse. He has accepted no responsibility for his crimes."

U.S. District Judge Patrick Schiltz came down in the middle and had harsh

words for Lazzaro.

He said Lazzaro showed sympathy to only two people during the trial "to himself and Jeffrey Epstein." And the judge said he was struck by the "soulless, almost mechanical nature" of how Lazzaro exploited the girls.

"It's almost as if Mr. Lazzaro set up a sex trafficking assembly line," Schiltz said.

One of the victims called Lazzaro a child predator in court Wednesday and said she continues to be impacted by his actions.

"I still see him in my nightmares, in my panic attacks, in men in their thirties. ... Putting Tony behind bars will save so many girls," she said.

The mother of a different victim addressed Lazzaro directly.

"The damage you caused my daughter, mentally and emotionally, you didn't just cause that damage to her. You caused it to me and my family and all these victims and all of their families," she said. "You stand up here and you don't even care. You're justifying

your actions. ... I hope you rot in hell."

The Associated Press does not typically name victims of sex crimes.

Lazzaro, who has said the charges against him were politically motivated, maintained his innocence, denying that he paid any of the girls explicitly for sex.

"I take a lot of offense to the government and court's notion that I perjured myself in this trial. ... Grooming behavior is the word you used," he said.

"If that's the case, then I suppose anyone who gives someone a gift, whether it be a cheap gift or a million dollars, is grooming their companion for sex. OK? If that's the standard that we're going to apply, then I don't know how there's any standard to apply."

Defense attorney Daniel Gerdts said afterward that they were "looking forward to the appeal."

Lazzaro's indictment in 2021 touched off a political firestorm that led to the downfall of Jennifer Carnahan as chair of the Republican Party of Minnesota. □

# NYC mayor wants more aid from the Biden administration to offset \$12B in costs for housing migrants

By Bobby Caina Calvan  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With thousands of migrants still arriving in New York City, Mayor Eric Adams on Wednesday renewed his appeal to the federal government to help the city avert a budgetary crisis as expenses mount now projected at \$12.2 billion by the end of next year because of the influx of people coming from the southern U.S. border seeking temporary care and shelter.

"Our compassion may be limitless, but our resources are not. This is the budgetary reality we are facing if we don't get the additional support we need," Adams said during an address that sought to put the onus on

the Biden administration to help relieve his city from the growing financial burden.

"New Yorkers did not create an international humanitarian crisis.

But our city's residents have been left to deal with this crisis almost entirely on our own," the mayor said in an address Wednesday morning.



New York Mayor Eric Adams, left, and city officials listen to a reporter's question during a City Hall press conference, Wednesday Aug. 9, 2023, in New York.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently dispatched a small team to New York City to help determine how the federal government should respond.

The federal government has so far promised the city \$160 million to help although the city's budget director, Jacques Jiha, told reporters that the city has yet to receive a "single dollar" of that money. A city spokesperson later clarified that requests for that money have been made but the delay could be because of routine bureaucratic reasons.

Since the spring of 2022, nearly 100,000 migrants have arrived in New York City seeking shelter.

With the city's shelters near capacity and more migrants arriving, the crisis is unlikely to abate anytime soon.

As of Sunday, the city said it was housing more than 82,000 people, including nearly 30,000 children.

The Legal Aid Society and the Coalition for the Homeless, among the mayor's most vociferous critics, echoed the mayor's plea for help. "This is a moment that requires the full resources and authority of government from all levels, and the city should not have to shoulder the response without meaningful assistance from both the Biden and Hochul administrations," the groups said in a statement. □



## Armenians face genocide in Azerbaijan, former International Criminal Court prosecutor warns

By Abby Sewell  
Associated Press

KORNIDZOR, Armenia (AP)

— The former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court warned that Azerbaijan is preparing genocide against ethnic Armenians in its Nagorno-Karabakh region and called for the U.N. Security Council to bring the matter before the international tribunal.

A report by Luis Moreno Ocampo issued Tuesday said Azerbaijan's blockade of the only road leading from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh seriously impedes food, medical supplies and other essentials to the region of about 120,000 people.

"There is a reasonable basis to believe that a genocide is being committed," Ocampo's report said, noting that a U.N. convention defines genocide as including "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction." "There are no crematoriums and there are no machete attacks. Starvation is the invisible genocide weapon. Without immediate dramatic change, this



Trucks with humanitarian aid for Artsakh parked in a road towards the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh, in Armenia, Friday, July 28, 2023.

(Hayk Manukyan/PHOTOLURE via AP)

group of Armenians will be destroyed in a few weeks," the report said.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a region within Azerbaijan that came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian military in separatist fighting that ended in 1994. Armenian forces also took control of substantial territory around the region.

Azerbaijan regained con-

trol of the surrounding territory in a six-week war with Armenia in 2020. A Russia-brokered armistice that ended the war left the region's capital, Stepanakert, connected to Armenia only by a road known as the Lachin Corridor, along which Russian peacekeeping forces were supposed to ensure free movement. A government representative in Azerbaijan dismissed

the report from Ocampo, who was the ICC's first prosecutor, saying it "contains unsubstantiated allegations and accusations."

"It is biased and distorts the real situation on the ground and represents serious factual, legal and substantive errors," Hikmet Hajiyev, an assistant to Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, told The Associated Press, on Wednesday. □

## Fire at French vacation home for adults with disabilities leaves 11 dead

By Sylvie Corbet  
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A devastating fire that raged through a vacation home for adults with disabilities in eastern France left 11 people dead Wednesday, moving so quickly that people on the upper floors had no chance of escaping.

Nathalie Kielwasser, deputy prosecutor for Colmar, said 11 people who were sleeping on the upper floor and in a mezzanine area of the private accommodation in the Alsatian town of Wintzenheim, in eastern France, were trapped by the fire, while five managed to es-

cape. Twelve people who were staying on the ground floor were able to evacuate, she said.

The adults, who had "slight

intellectual disabilities," were on a vacation sponsored by two specialized associations, she said.

Investigations are ongo-

ing to determine the circumstances of the fire and whether the building met all the required safety standards, she said.

Authorities said one of the survivors was sent to a hospital with serious injuries.

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne arrived at the scene on Wednesday afternoon. She said she wanted to show the government's support for the families of the victims and for the firefighters and rescuers on site. Lt. Col. Philippe Hauwiller, who was leading the rescue work of firefighters, said the fire likely started on the home's upper floor. □



Fire rages at a vacation home in the town of Wintzenheim, north-eastern France, Wednesday Aug. 9, 2023.

(TNN/dpa via AP)

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## World Bank says no new funding to Uganda over anti-gay law

By Rodney Muhumuza

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) —

The World Bank said it will not consider new loans to Uganda after the East African country earlier this year enacted an anti-gay bill that rights groups and others have condemned.

The World Bank had deployed a team to Uganda after the law was enacted in May and determined that additional measures were necessary to ensure projects align with the bank's environmental and social standards.

"No new public financing to Uganda will be presented to our Board of Executive Directors until the efficacy of the additional measures has been tested," the World Bank Group said in a statement on Tuesday. "Our goal is to protect sexual and gender minorities from discrimination and exclusion in the projects we finance. These measures



The World Bank building is seen on April 5, 2021, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

are currently under discussion with the authorities," it added.

The anti-gay legislation, which prescribes the death penalty for some homo-

sexual acts, was signed into law in May. It has widespread support at home, and Ugandan officials have been defiant amid concern that partners such as

the World Bank and others might withdraw resources over the legislation. Some officials have suggested that the funding threats are inappropriate.

It was not immediately possible to get a comment from Ugandan finance authorities, who for months have been trying to secure new funding from the country's top multilateral lender. The World Bank statement noted that despite the latest decision it remains "committed to helping all Ugandans without exception escape poverty, access vital services, and improve their lives."

The U.N. Human Rights Office has said the Ugandan law is "draconian and discriminatory," describing it as "a recipe for systematic violations of the rights" of LGBTQ+ people and others. The U.S. has warned of economic consequences. Activists and some academics have challenged the law in court, but it remains unclear when hearings will begin. Homosexuality is criminalized in more than 30 of Africa's 54 countries. □

## Brazil's Amazon Summit ends with a plan to protect the world's rainforests, but no measurable goals

By Fabiano Maisonnave and David Biller

Associated Press

BELEM, Brazil (AP) —

Brazil's Amazon Summit closed Wednesday with a roadmap to protect tropical rainforests that was welcomed as an important step in countering climate change, but without the concrete commitments

sought by some environmentalists to end deforestation.

Leaders and ministers from eight Amazon nations signed a declaration Tuesday in Belem, Brazil, that laid out plans to drive economic development in their countries while preventing the Amazon's ongoing demise "from reaching a

point of no return."

Several environmental groups described the declaration as a compilation of good intentions with little in the way of measurable goals and timeframes. However, it was lauded by others, and the Amazon's umbrella organization of Indigenous groups celebrated the inclusion of two of its main demands.

Joining the summit Wednesday were the presidents of the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, an emissary from Indonesia's president, and France's ambassador to Brazil, representing the Amazonian territory of French Guiana. An emissary of Norway, the largest contributor to Brazil's Amazon Fund for sustainable development, also attended.

The national representatives on Wednesday signed a similar, but much slimmer, agreement to that of their counterparts the prior day;

it likewise contained no concrete goals and mostly reinforced criticism of developed nations for failure to provide promised vast climate financing. The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru did not attend Wednesday's meeting.

The eight nations attending on Tuesday Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela are members of the newly revived Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, or ACTO, who hope that a united front will give them a major voice in global environment talks ahead of the COP 28 climate conference in November. The summit reinforces Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's strategy to leverage global concern for the Amazon's preservation. Emboldened by a 42% drop in deforestation during his first seven months in office, he has sought international financial support

for forest protection.

Speaking to reporters after Wednesday's meeting, Lula railed against "protectionist measures poorly disguised as environmental concern" that restrict imports from developing nations, and said developed nations must make good on their pledges to provide monetary support for forest protection.

The Amazon stretches across an area twice the size of India. Two-thirds of it lies in Brazil, with seven other countries and the territory of French Guiana sharing the remaining third. Governments have historically viewed it as an area to be colonized and exploited, with little regard for sustainability or the rights of its Indigenous peoples.

All the Amazon countries have ratified the Paris climate accord, which requires signatories to set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. □



Leaders of South American nations pose for a group photo during the Amazon Summit, at the Hangar Convention Center in Belem, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023.

(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)





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## Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.



located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park. The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the govern-

ment decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see. The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

## Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous

settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he



didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitchhiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat

in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: [visitaruba.com](http://visitaruba.com)





## Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



**Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!**

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights

the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.




Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

### America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

### Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. 





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Looking for something new?

## Get a fusion of Trinidad & Tobago and the essence of Aruba at Kamini's Kitchen



A native from Trinidad, Kamini Kurvink learned to cook at only 10 years of age. She was cooking for her parents and her eight siblings. This love for baking and cooking gave her all the experience and knowledge she has today to invent and re-invent her homeland dishes, making this more personalized.

At the age of 26, Kamini relocated to Aruba where she started working at a fast food chain. Starting out as a regular employee, Kamini's hard work and love for her craft got her all the way up to the position of manager.

After leaving her job at the fast food chain, she opened a breakfast and lunch snackette that

was open 6 days every week for about 10 months. Eventually, Kamini got to the current location and this is how today we have one of the restaurants that bring our visitors true Aruban cuisine, Kamini's Kitchen.

Once you're on the island, dare to try something different. The best part about it is that you have to look no further than at Kamini's Kitchen. One of the most special aspects of Kamini's Kitchen is the combination of Kamini's Trinidadian roots and the local flavor you must try as a visitor to the island. By doing this, you can enjoy her traditions through the food you're being served. This restaurant gives you a wide variety of dishes to

choose from that are bound to make a lasting impression on you and you'll be sure to return for more. So much so, that in order to motivate you to try something new, they will offer you a sample of their signature dish to get you started.

All the food made at Kamini's Kitchen is freshly made and to order. You get the best quality of food along with an open concept that creates a wonderful ambiance that is loved by all who visit. The natural air that can be felt in every corner of the restaurant makes it a fresh and accommodating place to be in, especially because it calms many who may still carry post-pandemic worries.

The main dish Kamini's Kitchen recommends is the Roti with Curry. Curry is usually Indian and often comes in a prepackaged way. However Kamini's Kitchen takes pride in their curry made in-house, which is usually not spicy unless you want it to be. And the best part? In the case that you do want it spicy, Kamini's has their own homemade hot sauce and one drop is more than enough!

Another dish that Kamini's Kitchen highly recommends is the Whole Red Snapper in curry or

'Crioyo' sauce with aros moro. This is one of Kamini's best sellers with their fishes being from open water.

At Kamini's Kitchen every customer is just as important; therefore the menu is dietary restrictions friendly. They will cater to your needs as long as it's within their reach and are willing to adjust their menu to your desires, so much so that vegetarians may even order off menu.

The newest member of the family is the Doubles. This is a snack platter that has tortillas with layers of Jhana paste and tamarind chutney. This makes for a perfect snack to prepare the stomach before heading to the beach, given Kamini's Kitchen's perfect location. And once you're heading back home after the beach, head back to Kamini's for a wonderful dinner sure to exceed your expectations.

At Kamini's Kitchen, you will be mesmerized by our cuisine. ☑







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## A Passionate Trio's Mission: Fostering Compassion Towards Animals Through Educational Books

*Three dedicated women launch a series of educational books promoting responsible pet ownership and empathy among children.*

In a heartwarming effort to shape a more compassionate future, a group of three passionate ladies has embarked on an inspiring project aimed at instilling values of responsible pet ownership and empathy towards animals in young minds. Through a series of engaging and educational books, they aspire to make a lasting impact on children aged 6-10 years, igniting a love for animals and promoting a sense of responsibility.

The team, driven by their profound love for animals and a strong belief in the power of education, envisions a world where children grow up with a deep understanding of the needs and emotions of their furry friends. Their project centers around a lovable dog named Snoop Doggy, who takes young readers

on a captivating journey through adventures that emphasize the importance of empathy, care, and proper treatment of pets.

The members of Foundation Snoop Doggy firmly believe that educating children about responsible pet ownership and compassion towards animals at an early age lays a strong foundation for a more empathetic society. By immersing children in engaging stories and vivid illustrations, they hope to inspire a genuine connection between children and animals, nurturing a sense of empathy and respect.

The first book in the series, which is already in the works, promises to be a delightful experience for children and parents alike. Through the charming character of Snoop Doggy, children will learn about the joys and challenges

of owning a pet while discovering valuable life lessons. The team's vision extends beyond just one book, however. They aspire to produce subsequent volumes that delve deeper into the realm of pet care, further expanding children's knowledge and promoting positive interactions with animals.

To maximize their impact, the team aims to distribute a copy of their book to every child in group 5 (3rd grade) of the primary schools in Aruba around Animal Day. By reaching children at this crucial stage of their development, they hope to foster a generation of responsible and compassionate individuals who will advocate for the well-being of animals throughout their lives.

While the team has dedicated their own time, resources, and unwavering passion to this

project, they are calling upon the community to join their noble cause. Financial contributions, sponsorships, and volunteer support are all crucial to realizing their ambitious goal and ensuring that their message reaches as many children as possible.

The team's initiative has already garnered attention and support from local organizations and individuals who share their vision. Their dedication to making a difference has touched the hearts of many, and the community eagerly awaits the release of their first book.

For more information on how to support this project or get involved, please visit our Facebook page or Instagram page: Foundation Snoop Doggy. Or you can contact us by email [foundationsnoopdoggy@gmail.com](mailto:foundationsnoopdoggy@gmail.com) or at +297 568 6030.



## Watch out for Blue Crab Migration near Savaneta

**(Oranjestad)—The department of nature & environment in Aruba are urging motorists to watch out for blue crabs crossing the road in Pos Chiquito to make their way to the ocean.**

They added a new bright yellow road sign with "Land Crab Crossing" to remind people to be cautious while driving on the highway on Pos Chiquito with blue crabs.

Blue crabs in Aruba are found plenty near the beach areas, especially in Pos Chiquito, because of the amount of mangroves. They are known to dig holes deep in the beach sand in seek of humidity.

The diet of blue crabs consists of decomposed trees, insects, scorpions and rest of dead animals.

Nesting season for blue crabs is between June & July.



### Why protect blue crabs?

Because they are of high value for the ecology of the mangroves. Conserving the blue crabs is crucial for the preservation of mangroves.

Watch out for crossing blue crabs on the highway near Pos Chiquito & Santo Lugo



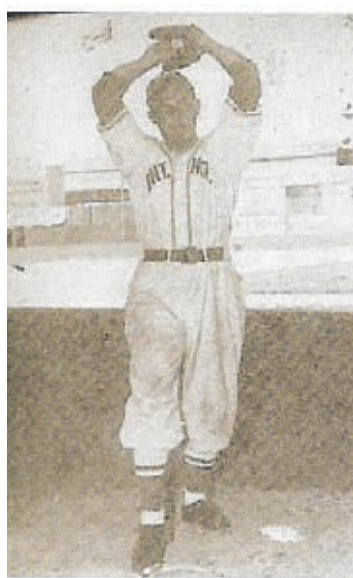


## Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD —** Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.



In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.



Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played



in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan im-



migrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team

managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Boggaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

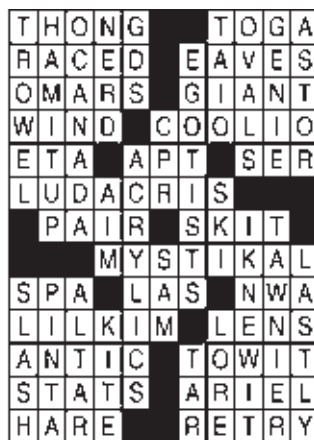
## ACROSS

- 1 Viking of the comics
- 6 "Hotline Bling" rapper
- 11 In the know
- 12 Desert spots
- 13 Principle
- 14 Pulls along
- 15 Mechanic's place
- 17 — relief
- 19 One or more
- 20 Whale group
- 23 Unbroken
- 25 Face feature
- 26 "Licensed to Ill" hip-hop group
- 28 Brown songbird
- 29 Top-notch
- 30 Mess up
- 31 Add up
- 32 "— your loss!"
- 33 Reclining seat
- 35 Eminem collaborator
- 38 Wanderer
- 41 In the lead
- 42 Skip the ceremony

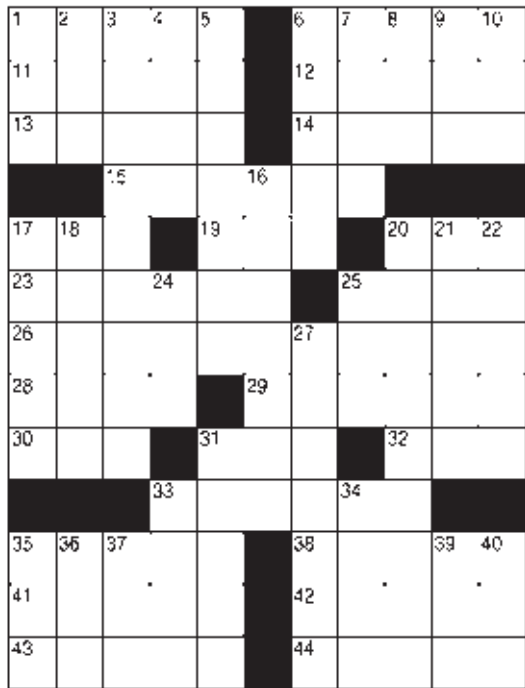
- 43 Fails miserably
- 44 Very serious

## DOWN

- 1 Derby or boater
- 2 Reverent wonder
- 3 "Mass Appeal" hip-hop duo
- 4 Region
- 5 Take back
- 6 Potentially dangerous
- 7 Steak choice
- 8 High — kite
- 9 Tapped item
- 10 Snaky shape
- 16 Island near Barbuda
- 17 Preacher's book
- 18 Lend — (hear out)
- 20 "Survival Kit" hip-hop group
- 21 To date
- 22 Buttes' kin
- 24 Inquire
- 25 Magic org.
- 27 White weasels
- 31 Throws off
- 33 Beach crawler
- 34 Song for one
- 35 Bit of ointment
- 36 P lookalike
- 37 Rep.'s rival
- 39 Zoo beast
- 40 German article



## Yesterday's answer



8-10

AXYDI.BAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-10

## CRYPTOQUOTE

J B I V Y O H H U L Q , S L L W G ,  
Y N L J H O G X C U I V H Q L L C , J V L  
T L M N U C L I S H V X R R K ?

— L G T X O J B N U H

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS A POWERFUL FORCE UNLEASHED WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE RESOLVE TO MAKE A CHANGE. — JANE GOODALL

# White House holds first-ever summit on the ransomware crisis plaguing the nation's public schools

By Frank Bajak  
Associated Press

(AP) - The White House on Tuesday held its first-ever cybersecurity "summit" on the ransomware attacks plaguing U.S. schools, in which criminal hackers have dumped online sensitive student data, including medical records, psychiatric evaluations and even sexual assault reports.

"If we want to safeguard our children's futures we must protect their personal data," first lady Jill Biden, who is a teacher, told the gathering. "Every student deserves the opportunity to see a school counselor when they're struggling and not worry that these conversations will be shared with the world."

At least 48 districts have been hit by ransomware attacks this year already three more than in all of 2022, according to the cybersecurity firm Emsisoft. All but 10 had data stolen, the firm reported. Typically, Russian-speaking foreign-based gangs steal the data sometimes including the Social Security numbers and financial data of district staff before activating network-encrypting malware then threaten to dump it online unless paid in cryptocurrency.

An October 2022 report from the Government Accountability Office, a federal watchdog agency, found that more than 1.2 million students were affected in 2020 alone with lost learning ranging from three days to three weeks. Nearly one in three U.S. districts had been breached by the end of 2021, ac-



In this June 19, 2018, file photo, a router and internet switch are displayed in East Derry, N.H.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa, File)

cording to a survey by the Center for Internet Security, a federally funded nonprofit.

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas during the summit, noting that even reports on suicide attempts have been dumped online by criminal extortionists and urging educators to avail themselves of federal resources already available. Education tech experts praised the Biden administration for the consciousness-raising but lamented that limited federal funds currently exist for them to tackle a scourge that cash-strapped school districts have been ill-equipped to defend effectively.

Among measures announced at the summit: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will step up tailored security assessments for the K-12 sector while technology providers, including Amazon Web Services, Google and Cloudflare, are offering grants and other support. □

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Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Narcotics Anonymous  
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Relacional Tel. 583 5400

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# Hip-hop turns 50, reinventing itself and swaths of the world along the way

By Deepti Hajela  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hip-hop was born in the break that moment when a song's vocals dropped, instruments quieted down and the beat took the stage.

At the hands of the DJs, that break moment became more: a composition in itself. The MCs got in on it, speaking their own clever rhymes. So did the dancers, b-boys and b-girls. Graffiti artists took it to the streets of New York City.

Hip-hop spread around the country and the world. At each step: change, adaptation. Art, culture, fashion, community, social justice, politics, sports, business: Hip-hop has impacted them all.

In hip-hop, "when someone does it, then that's how it's done. When someone does something different, then that's a new way," says Babatunde Akinboboye, a Nigerian-American opera singer and longtime hip-hop fan in Los Angeles, who creates content on social media using both musical styles.

Hip-hop "connects to what is true. And what is true, lasts." Those looking for a starting point have landed on Aug. 11, 1973, when Clive Campbell, known as DJ Kool Herc around the Bronx, deejayed a party. Campbell had started extending the musical breaks of records and speaking over the beat. It wasn't long before the style could be heard all over the city.



In this April 8, 2016, file photo, inductees MC Ren, from left, Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and DJ Yella from N.W.A appear at the 31st Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Barclays Center in New York.

(Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP, File)

And then in 1979, The Sugarhill Gang put out "Rapper's Delight" and introduced a rap record that would reach as high as 36 on Billboard's Top 100 chart list. Michael "Wonder Mike" Wright says he knew the song was "going to be big. 'I knew it was going to blow up and play all over the world because it was a new genre of music,' he tells The Associated Press.

And Guy "Master Gee" O'Brien says, "If you couldn't sing or you couldn't play an instrument, you could recite poetry and speak your mind. And so it became accessible to the everyman." Female voices took their chances, like Roxanne



Grandmaster Flash (at podium) & the Furious Five accept their award for being inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame during ceremonies in New York, March 12, 2007.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig, file)

Shante, who became one of the first female MCs to gain a wider audience. Other women have joined her, from Queen Latifah to Lil' Kim to Nicki Minaj to Megan Thee Stallion and more. Over the years, hip-hop has been used as a medium for just about everything. Mainstream America hasn't always been ready for it, though.

Coming from America's Black communities, that has also meant hip-hop has been a tool to speak out against injustice, like in 1982 when Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five told the world in "The Message," about the stresses of poverty in their city neighborhoods. And Public En-

emy's "Fight the Power" became an anthem when it was created for filmmaker Spike Lee's 1989 classic "Do the Right Thing," which chronicled racial tension in a Brooklyn neighborhood. Some in hip-hop pulled no punches but often those messages have been met with fear or disdain in the mainstream. When N.W.A. came "Straight Outta Compton" in 1988 with loud, brash tales of police abuse and gang life, radio stations recoiled.

Hip-hop (mainly that done by Black artists) and law enforcement have had a contentious relationship over the years, each eyeing the other with suspicion. There's been cause for

some of it. In some forms of hip-hop the ties between rappers and criminal figures were real, and violence spiraled out, as in high-profile deaths like that of Tupac Shakur in 1996 and The Notorious B.I.G. in 1997. But in a country where Black people are often looked at with suspicion by authority, there have also been plenty of stereotypes about hip-hop and criminality.

As hip-hop spread, a host of voices have used it to speak out, like Bobby Sanchez, a Peruvian American transgender, two-spirit poet and rapper who has released a song in Quechua, the language of the Wari people that her father came from.

"I think it's very special and cool when artists use it to reflect society because it makes it bigger than just them," Sanchez says. "To me, it's always political, really, no matter what you're talking about, because hip-hop, in a way, is a form of resistance."

When hip-hop first started being absorbed globally, it often mimicked American styles, says P. Khalil Saucier, who has studied its journey across the Africa continent. These days, homegrown hip-hop can be found everywhere. "The culture as a whole has kind of really rooted itself because it's been able to now transform itself from simply an importation, if you will, to now really being local in its multiple manifestations, regardless of what country you're looking at," says Saucier, a professor of critical Black studies at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. That's to everyone's benefit, says Rishma Dhaliwal, founder of London's I Am Hip-Hop magazine.

"Hip-hop is ... allowing you in someone's world. It's allowing you into someone's struggles," she says. "It's a big microphone to say, 'Well, the streets say this is what is going on here and this is what you might not know about us. This is how we feel, and this is who we are.'" □



Hendogga from The Sugarhill Gang, left, Grandmaster Dee of Whodini, center, and Michael "Wonder Mike" Wright of The Sugarhill Gang, pose for a photo on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 11, 2008.





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## The US Open is adding video review for double bounces. It's a first for Grand Slam tennis

By Howard Frendrich  
Associated Press

(AP) - New U.S. Open tournament referee Jake Garner recalls being a chair umpire and having a tough time figuring out in the moment whether a ball bounced twice before a player got it back over the net. If that happens at Flushing Meadows this year, though, an official can check a replay: Video review will make its Grand Slam tennis debut when main-draw competition begins in New York on Aug. 28.

"There were certain situations, of course, where you would see a video post-match and wish you had made a different decision," Garner told The Associated Press, "or wish you had assistance in making that decision." Video review which is separate from the electronic line-calling used for ruling balls in or out at all matches will be set up for five of the Open's 17 competition courts: Arthur Ashe Stadium, Louis Armstrong



Novak Djokovic of Serbia, left, talks with chair umpire Jake Garner of the U.S. as he plays Andy Murray of Britain during the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015.

Stadium, Grandstand, Court 5 and Court 17. That sampling, which should include a little more than 50% of singles matches, according to Garner, will be studied before deciding whether to expand the system in 2024. This year, players in singles, doubles and mixed

doubles will get three challenges per set for things such as double bounces, a ball touching a player's body, a player touching the net or a player being hindered by noise. They'll hold onto a challenge if they're correct and receive an additional one in

tiebreakers. "I had pushed for this for a while, so I am glad to see the U.S. Open is going to allow it," said Jessica Pegula, an American who is ranked No. 3 and was involved in a high-profile missed call on a double bounce that helped her opponent, Iga Swiatek, at

last year's French Open. "It will be great for both the players and the fans."

It's the latest example of modern assistance for officials in sports and the latest example of the U.S. Open leading the way when it comes to recent rules changes at major tennis tournaments. Video review was tested at lower-profile men's events such as the ATP Cup and the Next Gen Finals. It has not been tried at a women's tournament.

"It's a good step in the right direction," Chris Eubanks, an American ranked No. 29, said about video review. "If the technology's there, why not use it?"

One additional element Garner said was adopted in 2021 but formally written into the rules this year: If a player does something that could result in a default — such as when Novak Djokovic inadvertently hit a line judge with a ball at the 2020 U.S. Open — video can help determine whether disqualification is warranted. □

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man, File)

## Claressa Shields signs multi-year deal with PFL for MMA bouts

Associated Press

(AP) - Two-time Olympic gold medalist and three-division boxing world champion Claressa Shields is returning for another round of MMA fights.

Shields and the Professional Fighters League announced a multi-year agreement on Wednesday and she expects to enter the cage again in 2024 at 158 pounds.

The undisputed middleweight boxing champion went 1-1 in the PFL in 2021, but is widely regarded as

the top pound-for-pound female boxer.

"All my fans, y'all have been asking me, when are you getting back to MMA, when are you getting back in the cage," Shields said in a video posted on social media. "Well, here you go. Me and the PFL have signed a great seven-figure deal."

Shields is 14-0 with two knockouts as a pro boxer, including a unanimous decision over Maricela Cornejo in June.

"It is a privilege to an-

nounce the PFL has resigned the most dominant women's boxer in the world, Claressa Shields, to a new multi-year agreement," said Peter Murray, CEO of the Professional Fighters League.

The PFL announced a week earlier the signing of Amanda Serrano, the undisputed featherweight boxing champion.

Serrano has a 2-0-1 MMA record, with both wins by submission. □



Claressa Shields, top, punches Brittney Elkin during a Professional Fighters League mixed martial arts bout in Atlantic City, N.J., early Friday, June 11, 2021.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)



# Jay Monahan says PGA Tour, Saudi deal is on the right path in 1st remarks since taking medical leave

By Dough Ferguson  
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —

Back to full health, Commissioner Jay Monahan said Wednesday the PGA Tour is on the right path to finalize a deal with the Saudi backers of LIV Golf and that whether he's the best person to lead the tour will depend on the results.

Monahan spoke publicly for the first time since he returned to work July 17, having stepped away for five weeks with what he described as anxiety that had been building up over time.

He said his only regret in a proposed business partnership with Saudi Arabia's na-



PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan speaks during a news conference before the Travelers Championship golf tournament at TPC River Highlands, in Cromwell, Conn., June 22, 2022.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)

tional wealth fund and the European tour was keeping players in the dark.

"I put players on their back foot," he said. "That's something I regret and will not do again."

Monahan was short on details of the proposed agreement with the media and with players in his first formal meeting with them on Tuesday afternoon mainly because negotiations are ongoing. Tour officials met with the Public Investment Fund last weekend.

He was bullish that a deal would get done by the end of the year, and that the PGA Tour is not considering any outside investors at the moment.

"Our focus is on conversations with PIF," he said, adding later that he was "determined to get this right." He said a definitive agreement by the end of the year "is the target and that is realistic."

"There is the short term and there is the long term. Looking out over the horizon, we feel like this is the right move for the PGA Tour to create a new commercial model that allows PIF to invest ... and to be able to grow the PGA Tour that will reward players and fans.

"That's what we think is the right path forward."

As for his health, Monahan said there were no guarantees he would return when he stepped away on June 13. The timing was difficult. Monahan had announced the Saudi agreement on June 6 and met with players in Canada that evening. He described that meeting as "intense" among reports some players wanted him to resign.

Monahan said his personality is "run into conflict, not away from it." But his health left him no choice but to step away.

"The reality for me was that I was dealing with anxiety, which created physical and mental health issues and challenges for me," Monahan said. "I needed to step away and deal with that." □



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